



# GREG'S PODCASTING PRIMER

## What actually is a Podcast?

The term "podcast" is a combination of the words "iPod" and "broadcast." Podcasts are a relatively easy process of publishing recorded voice, music and/or video through the internet, in a way that will automatically share your content with your listeners via their computers and mp3 players.

## What do I need to create a Podcast?

- A computer with a suitable good quality microphone.
- Software to record your podcast.
- Podcasting software which allows for the easy management of Podcast sites and publishing podcasts.
- Access to a web server where you can publish your podcasts.
- An Aggregator, such as iTunes, to subscribe and listen to podcasts.

## What sort of microphone do I need?

It depends whether you want a headset version or a mic on a stand and of course the price you are prepared to pay. I have selected USB microphones as they are generally of better quality than those that connect into your mic in port. The dearer models such as the Samson have extra components on the inside that

improves sound quality. I personally have used both the Logitech headset and the Samson Q1U to be great value. The sound quality of the Samson is very good.

- Logitech USB Desktop Microphone \$49.95
- Logitech USB Headset 250 \$59.95
- Plantronics .Audio™ 500 USB Multimedia Multi-Tasker's Headset \$89
- Samson Q1U: Handheld Dynamic USB Mic w/Tripod \$129.00
- Samson C01U: USB Studio Condenser Microphone \$199
- Snowball Bundle, USB Microphone & Tripod Kit \$239

## Which recording software should I use?

It depends whether you are on an Apple or Windows computer. There is a wide range of sound software available. My choices are based upon price and ease of use.

- **Audacity** (Apple/Windows) It is open source and free to use.
- **GarageBand** which comes bundled free with every Apple Computer though to gain access to later versions you will need to pay an upgrade fee.



## How do I publish my podcasts?

- Upload your podcasts to your website just like you would other files on your website
- Announce the availability of that file by referencing it in another file known as the feed.



The feed is a list of the URLs by which episodes of the podcast may be accessed. This list is usually published in RSS format, (see the RSS icon on the right) which provides other information, such as publish date, titles, and accompanying text descriptions of the series and each of its episodes. Most web page development tools such as Web Blender, Dreamweaver etc have RSS features. Some Podcast tools such as Podcaster have inbuilt features.

## How do people subscribe my podcasts?

- The RSS feed on your page will allow people to subscribe.
- If you have promoted your podcasts through aggregators such as [iTunes](#) people can subscribe through there as well.

## Where can I get more information?

- [Apple Podcasting in Education Video Series](#)  
Excellent overview of the whole process with an education perspective to boot!
- [Podcasting News](#)  
A portal of all things to do with podcasting. This link takes you to a list of available podcasting software
- [Audacity](#)  
Home of the open source software you can download -
- [Kudlian Soft's Podcaster](#)  
Well worth a look as it is easy to use, relatively cheap and allows you create enhanced video podcasts as well.
- [The Education Podcast Network](#)  
An effort to bring together into one place, the wide range of podcast programming that may be helpful to teachers looking for content to teach with and about, and to explore issues of teaching and learning in the 21st century.
- [FAQs: For Podcast Makers](#)
- Apple's information on making podcasts and publishing through iTunes. Information is applicable to Apple and Windows computers.